

Serial No. 10/087,716
Atty. Doc. No. 01P05135US01

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, 21 and 22, canceled claims 2, 3, 8 and 9, and added new claims 24-32. Thus, claims 1, 4-7, 10-12 and 21-32 are presented for examination. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by Seals (USPN 6,071,628).

Independent Claims 1 and 7:

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that dependent claims 6 and 11 contained patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to be similar to claims 6 and 11, but do not recite that the inclusion material is solid. In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 7, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 7, as well as claims 4-6 and 10-12 which depend from claims 1 and 7, are in condition for allowance and requests allowance of claims 1, 4-7 and 10-12.

Independent Claims 21 and 22:

Applicant has amended independent claims 21 and 22 to recite inclusions having a coefficient of thermal expansion greater than that of the ceramic material. As noted by the Examiners indication that claims 6 and 11 are allowable, Seals does not disclose or suggest this claimed subject matter. Thus, independent claims 21 and 22 are patentable, as well as claim 23

Serial No. 10/087,716
Atty. Doc. No. 01P05135US01

which depends from claim 22. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 21-23.

Discussion of New Claims 24-32:

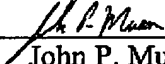
New claims further define the scope of the invention, as described in the specification (e.g. page 4 lines 5-31, page 6 lines 4-13) and drawings. In view of the foregoing remarks regarding the other claims, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 24-32 are patentable and requests allowance of claims 24-32.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d) for total independent claims in excess of 3, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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